

I am utterly and unequivocally opposed to the proposed relaxation of media ownership rules. Previous FCC Commissioners, members of the judiciary and the general public have understood that information--unfettered, unconcentrated and ideologically diverse information--is the lifeblood of democracy. That's part of what legislators meant when they passed the Communications Act of 1934 stipulating that broadcast licensees were mere trustees, not permanent owners, of the airwaves, and that said licensees were permitted to operate ONLY if they did so consonant with the "public interest, convenience and necessity." Chairman Powell points to the sheer number of media outlets as if that's the end of the story. What's the point of having, say, 500 cable channels if they're all or mostly all owned by a tiny handful of like-prejudiced corporations? The public is smarter than you think, which is why even people who have not spent a lifetime studying and writing about media (as I have) understand intuitively that allowing fewer people to control more of our media is bad, bad, bad, regardless of the dominant ideology of the controlling elite. Shame on you and your pro-private-interest paymasters.